

In February, Representative KEATING and I proudly introduced a bill that affirms the U.S. Government's support for Georgia's eventual membership in NATO. It also calls on the Obama administration and our allies in Europe to formally extend to Georgia a Membership Action Plan at this year's NATO Summit in Wales.

We must stand with those who have stood with us. We must honor independence by preserving independence. Together, I believe the United States and Georgia can help all peoples of the world hold on to the sweet taste of freedom.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING RANI ENGINEERING &  
PRESIDENT SUSAN PARK RANI

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Susan Park Rani on being named one of eleven "Champions of Change" by the White House for ensuring that our transportation facilities, services, and jobs help connect individuals and their communities to greater opportunities.

Ms. Rani is the Founder and the President of Rani Engineering, which has grown from having two employees and a vision to a team of more than 45 people with offices in Minnesota, California and South Dakota. Under Ms. Rani's leadership, Rani Engineering has worked to deliver high-quality solutions and build long lasting relationships within the communities she serves. As a result of the company's efforts, Rani Engineering was named the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Contractor of the Year in 2012 by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Ms. Rani is an inspiration for women, minorities, immigrants and anyone who aspires to start their own business. She moved to the United States as a child from South Korea without knowing English, but excelled in school and obtained a civil engineering degree in 1993. She is one of the first minority women to own an engineering firm in Minnesota. There is no doubt that Ms. Rani's ambition and dedication have enabled her company to compete with the largest institutions in the industry.

Ms. Rani's many achievements have been recognized by regional groups and national organizations. She has earned the Minority Business Award for Small Business Excellence by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, Debener Award for Small Business Growth by St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Engineering Excellence Award by the American Consulting Engineering Companies, SBA Emerging 200 by the U.S. Small Business Administration and many more highly renowned awards.

With her past positions on the boards of the American Consulting Engineering Companies of Minnesota, the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Mounds Park Academy, the Association of Women Contractors, and the National Association of Minority Contractors, Upper Midwest along with her recent position on the Destination Medical Center Corporation Board, she is inarguably a Champion of Change.

I commend Ms. Rani on her award and her thoughtful contributions as both an entrepreneur and as an excellent member of the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, due to a weather related travel delay, I was absent for rollcall votes on May 28, 2014. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 241—H. Res. 599—Urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, and religion and all fundamental human rights and the rule of law for all its citizens and to stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and their violent suppression—"yea."

Rollcall No. 242—H.R. 503—National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial Act—"yea."

HONORING PONSIE BARCLAY  
HILLMAN

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ponsie B. Hillman, an educator, an advocate, and pioneer in the civil rights and labor movements. Her life was defined by a love for education and driven by the staunch determination to share it. She passed away on June 26, 2008, but her legacy remains vivid.

Ms. Hillman was born in Maryland, October 7, 1918. The determination and success that characterized her early education would foreshadow her later success. She battled overwhelming social odds by prioritizing her schooling and pulling ahead of her peers. During Ms. Hillman's senior year, she received the highest grade in the county on the state exam. She supported herself through college on scholarships and summer jobs, graduating from Morgan State College in 1939.

Ms. Hillman moved to Philadelphia in 1948. She taught business at Vaux High School for 6 years before taking a post as a mathematics teacher at Roosevelt Junior High. She spent her summers furthering her own education by taking classes at Columbia University, earning a Masters in Mathematics and Education. Never ceasing to take every opportunity to learn, she continued attending classes at Sarah Lawrence College where she was able to offer her children their first view of higher education. She also studied Intergroup Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1959, Prince Edward County, VA, had closed its public schools to avoid court ordered integration. Ponsie Hillman arrived in the summer of 1963 to partake in the United Federation of Teacher's effort to establish Freedom Schools. She volunteered as a teacher for those students no longer able to receive an education. She was greeted with hostility from those who did not understand in-

tegration and from those who refused to accept change. Using the local church for classroom space, Ms. Hillman was successful in providing quality education to over 600 students that summer. She received an American Federation of Teachers award for her work at the Freedom Schools in Prince Edward County.

In addition to her selfless dedication to educating others, Ms. Hillman's contributions to the education community matched her passionate appetite for learning. She became an integral part of the community and consistently fought for teachers' rights, fair wages, and higher quality teaching. She won the NAACP's highest individual award for outstanding achievement as a teacher and was named a lifetime member. Ms. Hillman completed a 5-year term as a delegate to the national convention of the American Federation of Teachers where she served on the executive board, sharing her experience and cultivating ways to combat national education challenges. During her tenure, she organized the Afro-American Heritage Committee, the Asian American Committee, and initiated United Federation of Teachers summer camps. She was noted for her solidarity to the Union and her commitment to serving the community of educators.

I am pleased to honor Ponsie B. Hillman for her unceasing efforts and outstanding progress in working to make education equitable and attainable for all students. Her legacy in Prince Edward County and her mark on the national education system will inspire generations to come.

HONORING THE REVEREND J.  
CLETUS KILEY ON THE CELEBRATION OF HIS 40TH PASTORAL  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to celebrate the 40th Pastoral Anniversary of my good friend, the Reverend J. Cletus Kiley. Over the course of his 40 years as a priest, Father Kiley has served the church and his congregations with great dedication and commitment. Today, as he reflects on all that he has accomplished through his ministry, he can be proud of the impact he has had on the lives of so many.

Father Kiley has a rich and diverse career with the church. A priest of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, in his earliest years he served as a member of Cardinal Bernardin's Cabinet and Director for Personnel Services for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Having studied at the Centro de Artes y Lenguas in Cuernavaca, Mexico as well as the Seminario Arcivescovile di Milano in Venegono, Italy, Father Kiley is fluent in both Spanish and Italian. His trilingual knowledge was particularly helpful during his service as Acting Vicar for Religious, Chairman of the Comision del Plan Pastoral Hispano and as Asesor for El Movimiento del Encuentro Conyugal Arquidiocesano, and as an Associate Dean of Formation and spiritual director at Mundelein Seminary.